

# BOROUGH OF DARTFORD.

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## *Annual Report for 1941 of the Medical Officer of Health.*

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
DARTFORD.

4th June, 1942.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my report as Medical Officer of Health for the year 1941.

As in the past two years the report is, on the instructions of the Ministry of Health, presented in an abbreviated form and this year, at the Minister's request, certain particulars regarding vital statistics have had to be omitted for reasons of national security.

All the usual particulars and statistics have been compiled and are kept for record purposes.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area (acres) ... ..	4,234
Population (Census, 1931) ... ..	28,928
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1941) according to Rate Books	10,140
Rateable Value ... ..	£292,309
Sum represented by 1d. rate ... ..	£1,166

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

### WATER SUPPLY.

The district is supplied with water by the Metropolitan Water Board.

Periodical examples are taken and during the year all samples taken were satisfactory.

### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The district is main sewered, and the water carriage system is general. The sewage is dealt with by the West Kent Main Sewerage Board (of which the Dartford Corporation is a constituent Authority) at their works at Long Reach, Dartford.

There are only 93 houses not connected to the public sewers.

### RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Pollution of the Stanham Brook arising in an adjoining district was dealt with during the year.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT.

This is dealt with in the Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector which is appended hereto.

## HOUSING.

No new houses were built in the Borough during the year.

### HOUSING ACT, 1936 (Overcrowding).

(1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	14
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... ..	17
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein: Adults ... ..	98
Children ... ..	26
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ..	3
(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases: Adults ...	2
Children ...	2

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

The Council are the Food and Drugs Authority under the above Act.

Mr. W. E. Balchin, the Chief Sanitary Inspector, is the Sampling Officer and particulars of the 126 samples taken are given in his report.

## INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

### SMALLPOX.

No cases of Smallpox were notified during the year.

### DIPHThERIA.

The number of cases of Diphtheria notified (exclusive of Institutional cases) was 12, compared with 12 in 1940.

1,578 children were immunised during the year.

### SCARLET FEVER.

The number of cases of Scarlet Fever notified (exclusive of Institutional cases) was 62, as compared with 18 in 1940.

There were also 3 cases notified from Institutions.

### ENTERIC FEVER.

Three cases of Enteric Fever were notified during the year.

### TUBERCULOSIS.

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Number of cases notified	...	...	...	23	15	3	2	43
Number of deaths	...	...	...	11	13	3	1	28

The following is a summary of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year:

				Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total.
				Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	
Number on Register at commencement of year				135	68	27	32	262
Number on Register at end of year	...	...		135	74	24	30	263

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

### PARTICULARS OF ATTENDANCES AT THE CHILD WELFARE CLINIC.

Number of new entrants during the year	...	...	...	...	384
Total number of children who attended during the year	...	...	...	...	829
Total attendance of mothers	...	...	...	...	4,204

## ANTE-NATAL CLINIC.

Total number of cases on Register during year ...	...	...	...	211
Number of new cases ...	...	...	...	166
Number of Clinics held ...	...	...	...	51
Total number of attendances ...	...	...	...	585
Average attendance per Clinic ...	...	...	...	11.66

## BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC.

This Clinic was held monthly during the year. 47 new cases received advice and 124 attendances were made. Every care is taken to see that the objects of the Clinic are fulfilled.

## MATERNITY HOME.

A scheme is in force whereby expectant mothers can be admitted to either the County Hospital or the Livingstone Hospital for their confinements. Financial assistance is given according to the income of the applicants.

No cases were admitted under the scheme during the year.

## PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

5 cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year from the County Hospital.

The investigation of maternal deaths is undertaken by the County Medical Officer.

In connection with the ancillary services of the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, 9 children received orthopaedic treatment and 7 mothers and one child dental treatment during the year.

## MILK (MOTHERS AND CHILDREN) ORDERS, 1919 and 1921.

During the year 1941 the amount of milk supplied under these Orders was as follows:—

473 lbs. dried milk free.
331 „ „ „ half-price.

## INFANT LIFE PROTECTION.

Miss A. A. Brimble, Health Visitor, carries out the duties of Infant Protection Officer.

Number of visits paid to foster children during the year ...	135
Number of foster mothers on register at end of year ...	9
Number of foster children on register at end of year ...	14

## HOME VISITATION.

### VISITS OF HEALTH VISITORS.

The following visits were paid by your Health Visitors during the year:—

Number of new-born infants visited	...	...	424
Number of visits to infants under one year	...	1,464	
Number of children on register over one year	...	1,954	
Number of visits to children over one year	...	4,587	
Total visits	...	...	6,051

In addition to these visits the following have been paid:—

Ante-natal visits	...	...	...	...	110
Death enquiries	...	...	...	...	8

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOMAS FARTHING,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

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## ANNUAL REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR.

SIR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to report as follows on some of the matters relating to the Sanitary Inspection, etc., of the Borough for the year 1941.

### General.

Number of cases of infectious disease investigated	...	...	160
Number of premises disinfected: Infectious disease	...	...	95
Vermin	...	...	18
Number of sets of bedding disinfected	...	...	91
Number of houses inspected under Housing Regulations	...	...	Nil
Number of Notices served: Preliminary	...	...	205
Statutory	...	...	17
Number of drains tested: Water 89, Smoke 21, Total	...	...	110

### Supervision of Milk Supplies.

Samples of Milk taken under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders:—

3 Tuberculin Tested, 9 Pasteurized. All complied with the Regulations.

2 samples of milk taken for Tuberculosis. One negative and one positive.  
(Two tubercular cows withdrawn from herd and slaughtered).

## FOOD AND DRUG SAMPLING.

During the year 126 samples were obtained (86 formal and 40 informal) and submitted to the Public Analyst. The following table shows the results of the analysis of these samples:—

						Formal.		Not Informal. Genuine.		Remarks.
Milk	...	...	...	...	...	56	10	65	—	61 good quality. 2 very fair quality. 2 fair quality.
Butter	...	...	...	...	...	4	3	7	—	
Cake Flour	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	—	1	Excess of bi- carbonate of soda. With- drawn from sale.
Cocoa	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	3	—	
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	3	—	
Coffee Essence	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Condensed Milk	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Cornflour	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	
Custard Powder	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Dried Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	
Drugs:										
Tincture of Iodine	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Sulphur Ointment	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Castor Oil	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Liquid Paraffin	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Bi-carbonate of Soda	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Camphorated Oil	...	...	...	...	...	—	2	2	—	
Egg Substitute Powder	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Flour	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2	—	
Ground Ginger	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	
Ground Rice	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	—	
Lard	...	...	...	...	...	4	—	4	—	
Margarine	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	7	—	
Meat Paste	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Mustard	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Orange Substitute	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Pearl Barley	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Saccharin Tablets	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Sausages	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Sugar Substitute	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Spirits:										
Brandy	...	...	...	...	...	1	—	1	—	
Gin	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2	—	
Rum	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2	—	
Whisky	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	2	—	
Tinned Fruit	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Vinegar	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
Yorkshire Pudding Mixture	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1	—	
TOTALS	...	...	...	...	...	86	40	125	1	

## UN SOUND FOOD DEALT WITH AND DESTROYED.

The total quantity of unsound food destroyed or sent for salvage during the year was 1 ton 16 cwt. 1 qr. 9 lbs., as follows:—

Beef: 10 cwts. 1 qr. 20 lbs. (including one carcase affected by tuberculosis).

Goat Flesh: 2 cwts. 25 lbs.

Fish: 6 cwts.

Rabbits: 9 cwts. 1 qr. 20 lbs.

Poultry: 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 9 lbs.

Tinned Goods: 2 cwts. 4 lbs. (consisting of Vegetables, 175 tins; Fruit, 34 tins; Milk, 149 tins; Fish, 23 tins; Meat, 23 tins).

Cooked Brawn: 1 cwt. 1 qr. 24 lbs.

Eggs: 1 cwt. 2 qrs. 21 lbs.

Miscellaneous Foods: 1 cwt. 1 qr. 26 lbs.

## LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Proceedings were taken under Section 50 of the Public Health Act, 1936, for default in emptying the cesspool receiving the drainage of six flats and a fine of £2 and costs was imposed on each of the two defendants.

I am, Sir, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER E. BALCHIN,

*Chief Sanitary Inspector.*

